



July 6, 2004

## **Bristol man is charged with impersonating an FBI agent**

A federal grand jury has charged **Steven Almeida**, 38, of Bristol, with impersonating an FBI agent. Almeida allegedly called an employer last January and, impersonating an agent, told the employer that there was an investigation of an employee.

The Office of the United States Attorney and Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced a one-count indictment, which the grand jury returned on June 23 in U.S. District Court, Providence. FBI agents arrested Almeida, of 2 Scott Lane, on June 28. He was arraigned in U.S. District Court that day, pleaded not guilty, and was released on unsecured bond.

The indictment alleges that, on January 15, Almeida “falsely stated to an employer of a certain person that (Almeida) was a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation engaged in investigating that person.”

It is a felony to impersonate a federal agent. The statutory maximum penalty, upon conviction, is three years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant’s criminal background, if any. An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The FBI investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly is prosecuting it.

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